

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: BURMESE POSITION ON KOREA AT 30TH UNGA

REFS: (A) STATE 229632 (B) RANGOON 2778

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT
CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B). WE BELIEVE THAT THE APPARENT GUB
DECISION TO VOTE AGAINST US ON THE KOREAN QUESTION IS COM-
PLETELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH ITS EXPRESSED POLICY OF NON-
ALIGNMENT, A POINT WHICH WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR.
WHILE ENDORSING THE SUGGESTION THAT USUN ATTEMPT TO SWAY
FOREIGN MINISTER U HLA PHONE AWAY FROM SUPPORT FOR THE
NORTH KOREANS, IT IS NONETHELESS IMPORTANT THAT THIS MATTER
BE TAKEN UP WITH HIGH LEVELS IN THE GUB. IN SO DOING, YOU
SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE BURMESE UNDERSTAND THE GREAT
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WEIGHT WHICH WE PUT ON THE GUB MAINTAINING ITS TRADITIONAL

POSITION OF ABSTENTION ON KOREAN QUESTION VOTES.

2. IN SEARCHING FOR "LEVERAGE" ON THIS ISSUE, WE CONCUR IN THE VIEW THAT CONDITIONING OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL COOPERATION TO THE GUB'S UNGA VOTE WOULD NOT BE IN OUR INTEREST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROPOSED AID CONSORTIUM WOULD APPEAR TO GIVE US AN INSTRUMENT OF PERSUASION. FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GUB CONSIDERS OUR ATTITUDE

TOWARDS THEIR CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL TO BE "FAVORABLE" AND THAT THE BURMESE ARE PLACING GREAT STORE IN THE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL COME. WHILE THE ACTUAL CHANCES OF OUR PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ANY SUCH CONSORTIUM ARE SMALL, THE IMPORTANT POINTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE THAT THE BURMESE BELIEVE OTHERWISE AND THAT OUR REFUSAL TO JOIN COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON OTHER COUNTRIES' DECISIONS.

3. GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF A FRIENDLY CONSTITUENCY IN CONGRESS AND BURMA'S RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, A VOTE FOR THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION WOULD EFFECTIVELY FINISH THE CHANCE OF MEANINGFUL AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ANY AID CONSORTIUM. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW UPON THE ABOVE AND LET THE GUB KNOW, WITH WHATEVER DEGREE OF CANDIDNESS AND THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNEL YOU DESIRE, THAT A VOTE FOR THE "UNFRIENDLY" RESOLUTION IS QUITE LIKELY TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE USG VIEW OF PARTICIPATION IN ANY AID CONSORTIUM.

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